

## APPLAUSE FOR VASANT BHARATH'S CITIZENS ASSEMBLIES—FRI/9<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

I attended that second Assembly, Wed/8/May/2019 in Tunapuna and was very pleased to have 2 minutes to share my views. Firstly after giving name, residential location and party affiliation, I applauded the effort by Vasanth Bharath to initiate a Citizens Assembly, noting that a great leader will welcome any and all members/followers who have the intelligence, capacity and commitment to serve the people wherever they go, in any way they are most competent.

In this rapidly deteriorating management style by our present leadership the people/citizens must stand up and assist these leaders with suggestions for improving their policies. Therefore a tremendous potential exist for the Citizens Assemblies to do just that, in the FIRST INSTANCE by getting the advice, points of view, experiences etc from citizens and conveying all such gathered, to all and sundry for the adjusting as required or to vote as they see fit when that time comes.

In the SECOND INSTANCE the option for new party formation, or new independent group of citizens formation, whichever becomes best suited for the way forward, can be utilised to get the results we need desperately, to rein in these destructive policies and practices, by those now holding the reins of power.

Our Republican Constitution allows for Trinidad and Tobago to be governed by either a political party, or group of persons who command the majority in the House of Representatives. Consequently, once the Citizen Assembly identify by their 41 Constituency Assemblies and 135 Electoral District Assemblies, persons capable, committed, educated properly to function at such levels and willing to put the people they serve first before selfish, greedy, party/individual interest, we will achieve a model for the world to emulate as a Best Practice Democracy. Thinking Outside the BOX becomes necessary when Thinking Inside the BOX is exhausted.

**2 MINUTES DID NOT ALLOW ME THE TIME TO IDENTIFY THE MAIN AREAS OF MY CONCERN, BUT THESE WILL BE PLACED ON ALL MY SOCIAL MEDIA, EMAIL CONTACTS AND WEB ARCHIVE SOON AS FOLLOWS:-**

1. How can we monitor effectively the operations of the EBC at Election Periods?
2. How can we get the Reform of Local Government initiatives in the shortest possible time frame?
3. How can we use our existing Constitution to create a Gender Equitable Parliament Composition?
4. How can we get political parties/groups to adhere to our existing supervisory capability in our legal system?
- 5 How can we get Audits for our malfunctioning State Institutions in the areas of Manpower, Operations, Finance and Performance?
6. How can we stop the brilliant initiative of the National Crime Prevention Programme NCPP, from becoming another partisan politically controlled grouping, like the URP and CECEP?
7. How can we get the TTPS to adjust their BACK IN TIME RECORDING SYSTEM of convictions by citizens?
8. How can we get our assented to, 1996 Counting Unremunerated Work ACT, up and running as approved?

Answers to the above short listed 8 questions, put forward and deliberated at Citizens Assemblies will definitely show what has to be done, in my humble view, acknowledging that many more questions can emerge.

**Congratulations to Vasanth Bharath and his team for giving our citizens a light at the end of the tunnel.**

Signed.....Donald D. Berment, Specialist, HSDS, NGA, DVC—637-0924—383-6184.

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